

ENGINEERING FACULTY COUNCIL, December 08, 2020 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes – Rob Kunz Secretary.

Zoom (all materials in Box)

1. Permission to record? – approved
2. Approval of minutes for the meeting of October 13th, 2020 (we had cancelled Nov 2020 EFC meeting for various reasons) – no discussion, approved
3. Chair Report – Concerns raised regarding international graduate students who are stranded in SC for the break. Shelly informed that CEE is hosting a social interaction application – query regarding other COE initiatives in this regard. Jeff C points out that there are opportunities for existing student organizations that could help propagate interaction venues. Gary G points out the relevance to undergrad international students as well. Shelly: New international students in particular subject to isolation challenges.
4. Deans Report Peter B walks through:
 - Optional Alternative Grading
 - i. For enrollment controlled majors e.g., Math 141 will need to have a **letter** grade for ETM (entrance to major)
 - ii. Faculty should get letter grades in on time (no later than 12/22) in order for LP to download student warnings; OAG open on 12/23
 - iii. Links: <https://keeplearning.psu.edu/alternative-grading/>;
<https://keeplearning.psu.edu/alternative-grading/etm-considerations-for-administratively-controlled-majors/> ;
<https://undergrad.psu.edu/aappm/G-11-alternative-grading.html>;
<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/administrative-enrollment-controls/>
 - IUGs with SIA will be going out for consultation
 - i. CSE, COMPENG, CE, EE, AERO, Data Sc.
 - Faculty town hall focused on graduate recruiting was held recent; emphasis was on increasing grad program size with aggressive early recruiting with multi-year offers;
 - i. We are currently working with department heads to create a program for TA support, particular when over recruiting happens. Goal is to provide TA support, even across departments.

Christine M points out details related to implementations in i, ii above related to AP credits and alternative grades. Lionpath programmed to accommodate different scenarios.

Peter B: We've been approached by School of International Affairs to develop some integrated undergraduate and graduate degree programs. A number of

programs involved: computer science, engineering civil engineering civil engineering in the works - these don't need to be reviewed by the FCC.
Peter B: Recent COE town hall emphasis increasing grad program size.
Peter B: COE working with department heads to create a program for TA support that's more comprehensive than the past. Details discussed including over-recruitment of TAs, funding multi-year support programs being developed, commitment to unfunded grad students in later years of program, resident vs. WC issues.

5. Update from Undergraduate Studies Committee - Gary Gray (full proposals in Box)
 - STS 115 Course add. Approved
 - Product Realization Minor Drop. Approved.
 - Electrical Engineering program change. Approved.

6. Update from Graduate Studies Committee – Mehdi Kiani
 - Graduate Faculty nominations presented – not withing EFC purview
 - CHE 515 Course add. Approved.
 - CSE 592. Course add. Per Alok S comments and subsequent discussion, we decided that we need consultation from other departments.

7. Update from Engineering Technology Committee - Ram Rajagopalan
 - EECE 405 Course add. Approved.
 - EGT 102. Course add. Approved.

8. Update from the Planning Committee – Shelley Stoffels
 - College provided draft strategic plan (SP) to the university few weeks ago. Final version is currently do in late February. Rather than just reacting to the college draft that it would be great to hear you know from the faculty input on to what are some essential things that just have to be there -- What are broad goals or even specific outcomes that need to be in the college to teach it plan.
 - Departments have not yet seen draft. Shelly will post draft SP to teams for asynchronous consideration by EFC for discussion next meeting in January. Need to consider “what can’t we miss”.
 - Anthony A suggests posting University Planning Resource guide to teams site – outlines goals, objectives, actions for SP process. Not necessary to have EFC thoughts on COE plan be a fancy doc.
 - Shelley S suggests EFC members touch base with Department level SP committee and to carry out private discussions in order to be better able to share and discuss in January.
 - Jeffrey C looking to focus some of EFC attention of equity and inclusion in SP. AA and SS indicate this topic is “front and center”

9. Update from Faculty Senate - Alok Sinha

- At last FS meeting:
 - President discussed equity, diversity and inclusion topics and reported on impact of budget cutbacks on library collection.
 - Discussion of the reorganization of human resources and adoption of work day, particularly its effect on the workload on the faculty.
 - January 14 there is a faculty Senate workshop on Covid impact on faculty advancements.

10. Update from Graduate Council - Bo Cheng

- Graduate counselors considering opening its meetings to public – members of the university community, not general public. Graduate council has approved to refer this issue to the committee on procedures – more to come on this.
- 2 new ad-hoc committees in Grad Council: 1) Covid-19 impact on graduate studies, 2) Graduate faculty status (issues include teaching, committee service, TL and NTL admission to/retention on graduate faculty)
- Need to code instructional mode accurately especially for international students planning for graduation requirements – i.e., that one 3-credit in-person course is required.
 - Wellness days planned for SP21. Wellness planning committee to come.
 - Grad school considering special tuition for new grad students who could not get to USA. Financial assistance approved and details coming.
 - Grad Council voted and discussed on revisions to to DC AC 6466 - policies regarding qualifying and comprehensive exams and final oral exams.
 - Grad Council discussed policy changes on professional Doctorate degrees.
 - Peter B notes that SEDTAP has put forward a Doctorate of Engineering, voted on by EFC months ago – grad school put a bit of delay on this until some of the discussion on professional doctorate has been evolved. May be ready for submission soon – Bo will keep an eye out for it.

11. Other business:

- Anthony A: reminder of upcoming faculty open discussion with Dean. AA and Tonya P will discuss progress on equity action plan.
- Puneet suggests, Shelley seconds, having calendar invite entries for Dean meetings - AA says he'll send up the chain.
- TP provides an overview of how the equity action plan is evolving.
- Jeff C brings forward idea of integrating equity with curriculum and ethics. TP suggests this is farther down the road.

